Background

Due to ongoing instability and conflict in Ukraine since April 2014, areas primarily in the eastern part of the country have experienced a deteriorating humanitarian situation. Heavy shelling and armed conflict has led to significant displacement of people. The population in the most affected areas, Donetsk and Luhansk, experienced limited or no access to humanitarian aid, including basic life-saving services, and faced security threats. In response to this situation in 2014, the following clusters were activated: Education, Shelter, Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Early Recovery, Protection and WASH. The Logistics Cluster was activated in Ukraine on 24 February 2015.

In response to the identified logistics gaps, the Logistics Cluster established a coordination and information management hub in Kiev, a cargo consolidation hub in Dnipro and a convoy facilitation, coordination and storage hub in Donetsk. After almost three years since the activation of the Logistics Cluster, several identified gaps were either bridged or have changed. Nonetheless, certain gaps in capacity building, information management, and coordination between humanitarian actors remain.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The following logistics gaps have been identified:

- Need for transitional co-coordination of the logistics response between humanitarian actors;
- Need for access to relevant logistics information;
- Knowledge gap on cargo transport procedures and convoy facilitation;
- Potential risk of congestion at the main check points due to access constraints in combination with multiple actors delivering to non-governmental controlled areas (NGCA).

Objectives

Based on the gaps identified, the Logistics Cluster aims to facilitate the transition of logistics coordination and information management to a sectoral working group to maintain the network of actors involved in humanitarian logistics, provide trainings for the humanitarian community and strengthen their capacities to continue deliveries to NGCAs, ensuring an uninterrupted supply of priority relief items. The latter includes supporting humanitarian actors to complete cargo movement authorization procedures by themselves and to directly, or via OCHA, communicate with relevant authorities.

This Concept of Operations is a live document and will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and consultations with the humanitarian community are held.
Logistics Cluster Activities

The Logistics Cluster activities are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of individual agencies or organisations, but rather to fill identified gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and supplement the response of the humanitarian community. The Logistics Cluster moreover does not aim to replicate logistics services already commercially available in Ukraine.

In the event of a deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and depending on the evaluation and available resources, the Global Logistics Cluster may support remotely or deploy staff to augment the logistics capacities of the humanitarian community in their response on a temporary basis.

1. Coordination:
In order to facilitate information sharing and coordination between humanitarian actors, the Logistics Cluster will support the establishment of a sectoral working group led by a member of the humanitarian community. The main aim of this sectoral working group is to
   a) maintain the network;
   b) continue the mechanism of information exchange to avoid duplication of efforts;
   c) coordinate the time schedule of convoys to avoid congestion at crossing points;
   d) provide all necessary input to strategic processes and documents of the humanitarian community.

2. Information Management:
The Logistics Cluster will provide capacity building to the humanitarian community on Information Management and capacitate the sectoral working group to develop and publish IM products based on needs.
IM products might include:
   • Update the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA);
   • Provision of snapshots on customs procedures if required;
   • Situation Updates.

3. Logistics Services:
The Logistics Cluster will support the facilitation of inter-agency convoys until the end of January.
4. Capacity Building

The Logistics Cluster will support the capacity building of humanitarian actors in Ukraine by the provision of free-of-charge trainings in relevant topics, necessary to successfully, efficiently and safely deliver humanitarian cargo to beneficiaries. The following trainings may be provided until 31 March 2018:

- Information Management Training: The aim of this training is to build the IM capacities among humanitarian logistics staff in Ukraine, by improving their knowledge of IM standards, key documents and tools in the field of logistics.
- Convoy facilitation workshops: The aim of this workshop is to train humanitarian actors on convoy and cross line cargo facilitation to enhance their capacity to efficiently deliver life-saving cargo to beneficiaries.

As “Provider of Last Resort” (PoLR) WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is responsible only to provide logistics services that fill identified gaps in logistics capacity, where access and funding permit and where these gaps limit the ability of the humanitarian community to meet the needs of the affected population.